

MISSION 61-B FOR ATLANTIS

Atlantis was launched at 7:29 p.m. EST November 26, 1985 from the Kennedy Space Center and landed at Edwards Air Force Base at 1:34 p.m. PST December 3, 1985. In between it was a mission filled with much activity.

On Friday November 29, mission specialists Sherwood Spring and Jerry Ross made a several-hour spacewalk EVA. They built a pair of 45-foot-tall frames out of aluminum tubing and special joints to test construction techniques in space. They were scheduled to do it six times, each time taking about 50 minutes but their training paid off so well, they did it eight times during the EVA. Then on Sunday December 1, they repeated the activity.

Besides this, the crew carried three satellites into space with them and launched all three during the mission. The first satellite was MORALES-B, launched for Mexico on November 27. On that same day the crew launched the AUSSAT-2 satellite. Then on November 28 the crew launched SATCOM K-2. This was the first commercial satellite to ride on the shuttle without being insured.

The SCCS prepared covers for all of the above events, each cancelled on correct date with the MPP (Mailer's Permit Postmark) hand cancel. Each cover is appropriately cacheted with detailed information, including picture of the event.

MISSION COVERS

As we have done on all past Space Shuttle missions, the SCCS has produced three different sets of covers for the launch and landing events. The first set of two has a launch cover machine cancelled at the Kennedy Space Center on launch date and time. The landing cover is machine cancelled at Edwards on correct date and time. Then, from the site of Shuttle Mission Control, we have two different sets of Houston cancelled covers. The first set of two is machine cancelled on correct date and time for both launch and landing. The other set of two from Houston is a cover for launch and landing with the MPP hand cancel on correct date and time. This will give the collector complete coverage for launch, landing and mission control sites. The cachet for these three sets gives complete detailed information, with illustration.

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For all of you that have been with us during the past Shuttle missions, you know that we always try to make more information available to you before the event. This has been done by way of the free issues of The Space Log. But since the past several weeks have been taken up with the events of the 51-L mission of Challenger, we felt that we did need to go ahead and offer these covers to you for the 61-B mission. It will be about two weeks or so before the cachets are completed but so many of you have asked about these that we felt we must offer these to you now. And as soon as these are completed we will offer those for the 61-C mission of Columbia. That was the final completed mission before the ill-fated one for Challenger. 61-C launched on January 13, 1986 and landed on January 18. Most of you know, that we do not cachet our SCCS covers until after all are received back from all shuttle sites. That is so that we can give you complete information in the cachets. On our covers, there is no having to guess what the date stands for. We tell you in each cachet.

We might add at this time, thank you so much for the patience of each one of you in bearing with us on the 51-L covers. And we hope that you are proud to add them to your collection. We look forward to your ordering the 61-B covers on the attached order blank.

----- CUT HERE -----
TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P O Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following 61-B covers for the Atlantis mission:

Set(s) of 2 KSC launch/Edwards landing @ \$2.40 per set	\$	_____
Set(s) 2 Houston machine cancel @ \$2.40 per set.		_____
Set(s) 2 Houston MPP hand cancel @ \$2.40 per set		_____
Set(s) 2 covers for EVA Space Construction @ \$2.40		_____
MORALES-B satellite launch @ \$1.25		_____
AUSSAT-2 satellite launch @ \$1.25		_____
SATCOM K-2 satellite launch @ \$1.25		_____
Postage and handling40
Total remittance	\$	_____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
(86 (61-B) please send two addressed, gummed labels with order. Thank you.